

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 181520 TOSEC 190037

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 181520 TOSEC 190037

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEATS NAIROBI 7648 ACTION SECSTATE 21 JUL 76

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 7648

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KE, US, MASS

SUBJECT: US-KENYAN BILATERAL RELATIONS

1. IN JULY 22 MEETING WITH MOFA PERMSEC KIBINGE, HE SHOWED ME CABLE EXCHANGE DATED JULY 21 WITH FORNMIN WAIYAKI WHO REPORTED HIS SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT TO MEET WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER AT 12:30 JULY 22. WAIYAKI'S INTENTION IS TO PRESS FOR ADDITIONAL F-5E SQUADRON OR A-4 SQUADRON, AND WILL EMPHASIZE NEED FOR LATTER AS DETERRENT RPT DETERRENT CAPABILITY.

2. KIBINGE ADDED THAT WAIYAKI HAS MET WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, INCLUDING SENATOR CLARK, AND THAT GOK IS INTERESTED IN INVITING TO KENYA A DELEGATION OF FOUR OR FIVE KEY CONGRESSMEN, INCLUDING LEADING REPUBLICAN AND LEADING DEMOCRATS AND HEAD OF APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, ALSO FOREIGN AFFAIRS. KIBINGE
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PAGE 02 STATE 181520 TOSEC 190037

INDICATED GOK AWARENESS OF IMPORTANCE THAT CONGRESS BE FULLY

INFORMED ON FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES, AND HOPES SUCH A VISIT WOULD HELP.

3. COMMENT: WHILE WE BELIEVE IN BEING AS FORTHCOMING AS POSSIBLE TO KENYA IN STRENGTHENING ITS DEFENSE CAPABILITIES, IT WAS CONSIDERED OPINION OF US AIR FORCE SURVEY TEAM WHICH VISITED KENYA IN EARLY JULY THAT KENYA AIR FORCE WOULD BE INCAPABLE OF DIGESTING MORE THAN ONE SQUADRON OF SOPHISTICATED FIGHTER AIRCRAFT WITHIN NEXT FEW YEARS. THIS CONSTRAINT, COMBINED WITH KENYA'S INABILITY TO FINANCE ADDITIONAL SQUADRON OF AIRCRAFT UNLESS WE WOULD BE WILLING TO PROVIDE COMPLETE FMS CREDIT FINANCING, LEADS ME TO RECOMMEND THAT WAIYAKI'S REQUEST BE POLITELY BUT FIRMLY TURNED DOWN. BELIEVE THAT BEST ARGUMENT WHICH YOU CAN MAKE IS THAT AIRCRAFT WHICH KENYA AIR FORCE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO OPERATE WITHIN FORESEEABLE FUTURE WOULD NOT CONSTITUTE EFFECTIVE DETERRENT TO ATTACK BY KENYA'S NEIGHBORS. I WOULD VERY MUCH WELCOME THE VISIT TO KENYA OF CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION, WHICH MAY BE PROPOSED BY FONMIN WAIYAKI WHEN HE MEETS WITH YOU. WAIYAKI MAY ALSO RAISE (OR YOU MAY WISH TO MENTION) GOK REQUEST FOR AGREEMENT FOR J. E. KARIUKI AS AMBASSADOR TO US (WHICH IS RESULT OF MY HAVING RAISED SUBJECT WITH KENYATTA). NOTE WAS HANDED TO ME TODAY BY KIBINGE (BEING REPORTED NAIROBI 7647 SLUGGED SCHAUFLE ONLY); KENYAN EMBASSY WILL APPROACH DEPARTMENT IN WASHINGTON AS WELL.
MARSHALL
UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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